NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1877.

### Vol ... X X X VI .... No. 11,183.

### WASHINGTON.

SUBJECTS BEFORE CONGRESS. THE HOUSE AGAIN PASSES THE POLICE BILL-VETO OF JOINT RESOLUTIONS-LITTLEFIELD'S REVELA-TIONS-IRON EXPERIMENTS-THE PACIFIC RAIL-

Senato. Thurman spoke at length in favor of his Pacific Railroad Sinking Fund bill yesterday; it is thought, however, that Gordon's bill will pass the Senate. The House passed the bill abolishing the Police Board over the President's veto. The President has recommended by message an appropriation to continue the government iron and steel experiments. He has also veteed two congratulatory joint resolutions to the Pretorian and Argentine Republics s intrenching on the rights of the Executive. Littlefield charges ex-Gov. Wells with ordering the alteration of a Louisiana election return, and states the details, but is contradicted by other witnesses.

### POLICE PREPARATIONS.

SPECIAL OFFICERS TO LOOK AFTER THE COMING CROWDS-PASSAGE OF THE POLICE BILL BY THE HOUSE OVER THE VETO.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 .- Fifty additional Capitol policemen are to be appointed by the Sergeants-at-Arms of the two houses, to serve during the remainder of the session and look after the crowds that will throng the Capitel during the exciting time of the counting of the electoral votes. The need for the services of this extra force, Senator Hamlin explained to-day, grows out of the disorganization and demoralization of the regular District police. The suspension of Superintendent Richards and his principal assistants and the other performances of Murtagh have, it seems, thrown the whole force into such a condition that it is almost worthless. Murtagh is at last out of the way, but the Police Department will be practically without a head until the veto of the bill abolishing the board is acted upon by the Senate. The House passed the bill over the veto to-day by 158 to 78, two more than the necessary two-thirds vote. It was almost a strict party division. Thieves and pickpockets are said to be flocking to the city, in the hope of doing a successful business among the crowds that will come to witness the count and the inaugural ceremonies.

### THE PACIFIC RAILROAD BILLS. THURMAN SPEAKS IN BEHALF OF HIS BILL-GOR-DON'S BILL THOUGHT LIKELY TO PASS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, Jan. 30.-Senator Thurwan made a long and strong speech to-day on the question of the Pacific Railroad indebtedness to the Government and in favor of his bill for creating a sinking fund to pay it off. He said that the two great companies owe the United States \$64,600,000 for the principal of the bonds loaned them, and that as they are now released by decision of the Supreme Court from paying the interest until the principal becomes due, the whole debt will amount at maturity to \$181,000, 000, a sum which he seemed to think the roads will never be able to pay. He gave the present net earnings of the Union Pacific as \$6,148,365, and the Central Pacific as \$8,031,493. No vote was reached to-day. It is asserted by friends of the roads that Mr. Gordon's substitute for the Thurman bill, which does not meet with their opposition, will be adopted. They are decidedly opposed both to the Thurman bill, and the Lawrence bill which passed the House

### MR. STEPHENS VERY LOW. A RELAPSE LAST EVENING.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 .- Mr. Stephens passed comfortable night and felt better to-day, and this afternoon was thought to be out of danger by his physicians. He however became much worse during the evening, and at midnight was very low. his death is not apprehended imme diately, it is feared he cannot recover.

# TESTS OF IRON AND STEEL.

GEN. GRANT RECOMMENDS AN APPROPRIATION TO CONTINUE THEM-HIS MESSAGE TO CONGRESS. Washington, Jan. 30.—The President sent a message to Congress to-day in regard to the iron and steel experiments at Watervliet Arsenal alluded to

I desire to call the attention of Congress to the importance of providing for the continuance of the board for testing iron, steel, and other metals, which by the Sundry Appropriation act of last year was ordered to be

This board, consisting of engineers and other scientific experts from the army, the navy, and from civil life-all whom, except the secretary, give their time and labors to this object without compensation-was or gamzed by authority of Congress in the Spring of 1875, and immediately drafted a comprehensive plan for its investigations and contracted for a testing machine of 400 tons capacity, which would enable it to properly conduct the experiments. Meanwhile the sub-committee of the board have devoted their time to such experiments as could be made with smaller testing machine already available. This large machine is just now com pleted and ready for erection at the Watervillet Arsenal, and the real labors of the board are therefore just abou to be commenced. If the board is to be discontinued at the end of the present fiscal year, the money already appropriated and the services of the gentlemen who have

propriated and the services of the gentlemen who have given so much time to the subject will be unproductive of any results.

The importance of these experiments can hardly be experimented when we consider the almost endiese variety of purposes for which irou and steel are employed in this country, and the many thousands of lives which dany depend on the soundness of from structures. I need hardly refer to the recent disaster at the Ashtabula bridge in Ohio, and the conflicting theories of experts as to the cause of it, as an instance of what might have been awerted by a more thorough knowledge of the properties of from and the best modes of construction. These experiments cannot properly be conducted by private firms, not only on account of the expense but because the results must rest upon the authority of disbecause the results must rest upon the authority of dis-interested persons; they must, therefore, be undertaken under the sauction of the Government. Compared with heir great value to the indostrial interests of the coun-try, the expense is very slight. The Board recommend an appropriation of \$40,000 for the next fiscal year, and I carnestly commend their request to the favorable con-aderation of Congress.

Adversarion of Congress.

Lake recommend that the board be required to conduct their investigations under the direction of the Secretary of War, and to make full report of their progress to that officer in time to be incorporated in his annual report.

U. S. Grant. Legerative Mansion, Jan. 30, 1877.

LITTLEFIELD'S CONFESSION. EX-GOVS WELLS SERIOUSLY IMPLICATED IN THE FORGERY OF A RETURN - IS THERE A CON-SPIRACY AGAINST WELLS ?

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 .- Mr. Littlefield, the clerk of the Louisiana Returning Board who transposed the figures in the official return from Verson Parish, conlessed the whole story to-day; but even if all he said is true, his testimony adds very little to what was already known about the riffair. He said that on the Sunday hight before the official cangass of the vote of Louisiana was promulgated, the Returning Board, its secretary and clerks dound together, and returned to their office at about 9 o'clock. Soon after their arrival Littlefield no theed ex-Gov. Wells looking over some of the consolidated statements of the votes of parishes and making some figures on a piece of paper. saw him in whispered consultation with Abeil, the secre-lary of the board, and he says that finally Wells called him over and in a whisper ordered him to transpose the Democratic votes in two precincts to the Republican colunns, in order to elect a Republican Judge, District-At torney, and State Senator. Littlefield says that he at once sent about the work, and continued his labors upon the return that night for about four hours. The next morning the changes were completed. This work was done in the foom where other cierks were engaged in compiling re-turns, and one of them. Judge Brown, made suggestions Littlefield as to the best method of erasing the figure 4, another, Woodward, who testified before the Mo rison committee yesterday, assisted Littlefield on Mon day morning by erasing some of the original footings. equently, a day or two after the official promulgs tion of the returns, Wells ordered Littlefield to bring to him the returns from the two polls which had been independence in their resolutions to Congress in

doctored, and they were destroyed in the presence of the witness. Wells also directed the witness to make away with the consolidated statement. Littlefield says he put it in his pocket and took it home, intending to destroy it,

but afterward changed his mind. When the Morrison committee was in New-Orlean they inquired of Wells how it happened that the Republican vote in Vernon Parish had been increased after the certificates were opened. Wells was considerably troubled about it, and asked the witness to see if he could not fix returns from certain precincts in Vernon Parish had been thrown out and yet have the same result. After studying the return for some time, the witness found that by throwing out three polls the Democratic vote would be reduced by just 178 votes. Wells then agreed to have the affidavits to warrant the rejection of these polls prepared, which he afterward did, and they were filed with the papers of the Returning Board. They were dated the 14th of November, but were made about the 18th of December. Wells also directed the witness to have a new consolidated statement prepared, and asked if he could not practice to multate the signature of the Commissioner of that parish. Littlefield says that he never attempted to forge the signature of the Commissioner, and that no signature was on the paper the last time he say it.

The whole of this story must of course be received with The whole of this story must of course be received with allowence as coming from a man who confess a himself to have been guilty of perfury under the laws of Louisiana. Besides this, when examined before the Morrison committee he at one time refused to answer the question whether any member of the Returning Board had ordered him to make these changes, but at another time on cross-examination he answered "No.1" to both these questions. Woodward, the clerk who Littlefield says assisted him an making the transfers, when on the stand yesterday denied all knowledge of the matter. One of two conclusions must therefore be reached. The witness, Lutthefield, is one of the most darting periperes ever examined before a committee of Congress, or J. Madison Wells, the president of the Returning Board, is a scoundred who ought to be in the pentientiary. It is hoped that the Republicans on both committees will insist on going to the bottom of this affair, and if this is a conspiracy against ex-Gov. Wells that it will be fully exposed.

### MR. KENNER IGNORANT OF THE ALLEGED ALTERA-TIONS-POINTS IN LITTLEFIELD'S STORY. IGENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

Washington, Jan. 30 .- The Committee on the Powers, Privileges, and Duties of the House continued the examination into the Louisiana election today. Louis M. Kenner, one of the members of the Returning Board, was first examined. He said the Democratic votes were thrown out on account of the evidence of intimidation, the hanging of men, and the driving of them from the polls and from their crops. He said he had no knowledge of any part of an original return having been altered, nor had he knowledge that the board had any consultation on that subject, or that there was any fraud by the board or any member thereof, or under their direction or knowledge. At his examination in the afternoon the witness produced private memoranda of the throwing out of precincts; there was nothing in them about Vernon Parish, but Kenner said that he only took notes when present at the meetings of the

electors of Louisiana. He had no personal knowledge of Levisse being a United States Commissioner, and Brewster Surveyor-General, at the time they were voted for; but he knew that they absented themselves from the college, and that other electors filled the vacancies.

Littlefield, the clerk of the board, who furnished the commit ee with the altered return from Vernon Parish, was recalled, and gave an account of the alleged alteration of the return by the order of ex-Gov. Wells. He said with regard to having possession of the return, that when Wells told him to destroy it he felt he had done a little too much already, and took the paper home. He eaid further:

said further:

I communicated these facts to Mr. Spearing, my uncle, and gave him the paper to be used by him and others in whom confidence could be placed, to be used in behalf of the Nicholls Government, which Mr. Spearing supported; I requested that my name should never be known in the transaction and that I should not be subpensed to testify; the last time I saw the paper was in the office of Gov. Palmer, at Springfield, it having been conveyed thither by Mr. Spearing; from that time to this I have never seen the paper until it was produced yesterday before the commuttee.

M. Lawrence then examined the witness, who was re-

Mr. Lawrence then examined the witness, who was reminded that he had said when he was examined yesterday that he was not aware of his rights. The witness remarked that since yesterday he had conversed with Mr. Murphy of Davenport, Iowa, who said that he could give testimeny under protest, which would clear him of

contempt. The witness said further:

I went to the office of the Returning Board after dinner to compile the returns. The members of the board were in their private office. I began to make alterations in the returns from Vernen Parish 15 minutes after Gov. Wells had suggested it. Judge Davis, one of the clerks, showed ne how to after the figures and furnished a runber. Woodward, another clerk, assisted on Monday menting. Other clerks must have seen it done. Gov. Wells came in repeatedly while the work was going on. I worked on it that night until I o'clock; on Monday contempt. The witness said further: repeatedly while the work was going on. I worked on it that night until I o'clock; on Monday I invited Woodward to assist; Woodward crassed some of the totals. I handed the original returns to Gov. Wells. Abell came in just as they were being burned. Abell said such destruction was usually done outside of the place of meeting of the board. Spearing is my uncle. He frequently conversed with me, and asked me to tell him some things that would help the Nicholls Government. My uncle was not much of a politician. He voted for Nicholis and for Hayes; both I and my uncle were formerly hay inspectors at New-Orleans, but were removed.

moved.

Mr. Scelye—When you were asked yesterday whether Gov. Wells requested you to make the alteration, did you not say he did not! A. I evaded an answer: I am satisfied I did not say Gov. Wells did not make such request.

Q. The reporter's notes say you thus testified! A. Then Ley are wrong.

Then they are wrong.

Q. Did it seem to you perfectly right to make the alterations? A. I thought there was nothing wrong in obeylights? A. I thought there
ing instructions,
Q. Did you think Gov. Wells a rascal for making such
Q. Did you think gov. I have the appearance of

proposition f A. I will say, I have the appearance of seing a rascal for what I have done.

During the further examination of the witness he said the promulgation of the falsified return was signed by all the members of the Returning Board. The committee adjourned until to-morrow forenoon.

# INTEROCEANIC CANAL.

TREATIES WITH NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA BE-FORE THE SENATE-GEN. GRANT'S EXPRESSIONS ABOUT THE CANAL. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 .- The interoceanic anni treaty with Nicaragua has not yet been signed, though copies have been furnished to the Senate Com mittee on Foreign Relations, and the formally executed locusent will be transmitted in a few days. Don Adam Cardenas, the Nicaraguan Commissioner, is still in the city, and as soon as the treaty is signed will depart to seate, which will be in session until March. An abstract of this treety has already been given in these disputches. A treaty has also been negotiated with the Costa Rica Government through Senor Don Vicente Dardon, this being necessary on account of the abutment of some of the dams of the causi on Costa Rican territory. The features of this treaty are practically the same as those

of that with Nicaragua.

The President, in speaking of the interoceanic canal project, said to-day that this enterprise had engaged his attention for many years. He first suggested it to President Johnson during the first year of the latter's admiuistration. He also had several conferences with Secre-tary Seward on the subject, but Mr. Seward manifested very little interest in it, and finding that nothing could be done at that time, he made no further effort to secure action. He said, however, that he kept matters together and enlarged his information on the subject as best he could as General of the Army. When he assumed the Executive office he immediately set in motion the Executive office he immediately set in motion proper means of obtaining authentic information. He had thorough and exhaustive surveys made of the Isthmas of Panama and Darten, Tehuantepec and the Nicaraguan route. He said that the Panama route is practicable for a railroad but presents many disadvantages for a canal; that sinck water navigation will be impracticable on necessary of the variations in the rainfail; and besides they cannot get the canal up high enough to pass over the streams. He said that the Nicaraguan route affords an inexhaustible supply of water besides every possible topographical advantage. In regard to the time within which this canal will probably be built, he remarked that from the favorable recognition which it had received from the Governments of the Old World he had no doubt that within the next ten years the work will be consummated.

### VETO OF JOINT RESOLUTIONS. ONGRATULATORY REPLIES TO THE PRETORIAN AND

ARGENTINE REPUBLICS BY CONGRESS-AN IN-

FRINGEMENT ON THE EXECUTIVE. to the House to-day a message vetoing two joint resolu-tions of Congress, one directing the Secretary of State to communicate to the Republic of Pretoria the high appreciation by the Congress of the United States of the complimentary terms in which said republic has re-ferred to the first Centennial of our national THE ELECTORAL COUNT.

May last, and the other of a similar im port in relation to congratulations of the Argentine Ee public. In his message the President says to allow cor espondence or interchange between States to be cons ered by or with more than one such agency would ecessarily lead to confusion and possibly to contradictory presentation of views and to internal complications. The Constitution of the United States, following the established usage of natious, has indicated the President as the agent to represent the national sovereignty in its intercourse with foreign Powers and to receive all official communications from them. It gives him the power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties and spipoint embassadors and other public ministers. It intrusts to him solely the reception of embassadors and other public ministers, thus vesting in him the origination of negotiations and the reception and conduct of all correspondence with foreign States, making him, in the language of one of the most eminent writers on constitutional law, "the constitutional organ of communication with foreign states." No copy of the addresses which it is proposed to acknowledge is furnished, and the President has no knowledge is furnished, and the President has no knowledge of their tone, language, or purport. The act of Congress establishing what is now the Department of State, then known as the Department of Foreign Affairs, which remains substantially unchanged, confirms they lew to act the whole correspondence of the Government with and from foreign states is intrusted to the President; that the Secretary of State conducts such correspondence exclusively, under the orders and instructions of the President, and that no communication or correspondence from a foreign State can properly be addressed to any branch or department of the Government except that to which such correspondence has been committed by the Constitution and law. The President therefore feels it to be his duty to return the two joint resolutions without his approval. receive all official communications from them. It gives

### WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Jan. 30, 1877. Orders have been received at the Arsenal, directing four batteries of artillery, whose proper station is at Fortress Monroe, to return to that point by bent; but as the river is not yet entirely open it is thought they will not embark before Monday next. The troops which will leave on Monday are those which arrived here on Sunday leave on Monday are those which arrived here on Sunday evening, Nov. 19 last, under the command of Col. Loder. The companies are Battery I, 4th Artillery, Col. Loder commanding; Battery G, 1st, Col. Eider commanding; Battery G, 1st, Col. Eider commanding; Battery G, 5th, Major Bandolph, and Battery A, 3d, Col. Lorraine. They had been stationed at Fortress Monroe previous to the Presidential election, but were ordered to south Carolina to preserve the peace. The band of the Artillery School, which arrived here about Nov. 28, will return at the same time. It is thought that the other troops will leave for posts North and West shortly.

The greened committee of the House to in-

The special committee of the House to inquire into the official acts of the late Board of Police Commissioners continued their investigation to-day. Sec retary George M. Robeson was sworn, and testified that he saw Murtagh frequently during the Whitthorne investigation, but had no conversation with him about Whitthorne: Mustagh did no bing about the Whitthorne Edge; Witness talked about the Whitthorne business with various persons, as to Mr. Whithorne's personal habits, but had nothing to do with the period of the Whitthorne's habits were bad, and so may have smiled when Murtagh asked witness about bira; he thought that Mr. Whithorne was laying himself open to exposure, and, thinking some subordinate would take advantage of the opportunity, communicated with a member of Congress who should use his influence in warning Mr. Whitthorne to be careful if there was any necessity; he did this not for any feeling toward Mr. Whitthorne, but out of respect for himself.

The House Committee on Appropriations in the Legishe saw Murtagh frequently during the Whitthorne in-

The House Committee on Appropriations in the Legislative and Executive Appropriation bill only provide \$25,000 for the salary of the President, and necompany it with a provision repealing the section of the Revised Statutes which increased the salary to \$50,000.

Jeremiah M. Wilson of counsel for the Louisiana Returning Board denies the truth of the statement that he and Mr. Shellabarger had applied to the courts for a writ of habeas corpus in their behalf. A. T. Britton has been appointed Metropolitan Police

Commissioner in the place of Mr. Kimball, who was ap-pointed to succeed Mr. Martagh, but declined to serve. The Treasury to-day destroyed \$1,070,272 in legal-tender notes, that amount being 80 per cent of the national bank circulation issued during the month.

### DEFRAUDING THE REVENUE.

CHARGES AGAINST THE NATIONAL TUBE WORKS-DRAWBACKS CLAIMED AND OBTAINED ON AMERI-

INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Boston, Jan. 30 .- For some months the special agents of the Treasury Department located in Boston have been at work upon a case which will bring before the United States courts one of the largest manufacturing companies of the State, the National Tube Works. From information obtained by the Treasury agents, it appears that the matter was fully investigated, the facts in the case were reported at Washington, and authority was given to enter legal proceedings against the works, and also against the agent, W. S. Eaton. The company has works at East Boston and also at McKeesport, Penn., and for several years an immease business has been done in the manufacture of iron pipe. the other hand, the Government claims that the iron was whelly or mostly American iron, and as such no drawback ought to have been allowed. The amount of drawback received by the company from the Government on its exports is said to be very large, but the amount claimed cannot be accurately given. It is, however, placed as high as \$100,000, and if there be fraud, as mileged, both the owners and the persons making the curry are listle severally for the whole vaine of the merchandise on which the drawback was paid. This may swell the amount to half a milion dollars. It is understood that mits will be begin in the United States courts for the whole amount of the drawback which the company has received, for the penalty against the Tabe Works, and also against the agent, W. S. Exton. The suits for the penalty will, however, have to be confined to transactions occurring within three years, as after a logical carried they become

# RUMORED STOCK OPERATIONS DENIED.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 30. - Financial men here scout the story that \$20,000,000, or any large sum has been transferred from here to New-York, to operate in Western Union or any other stock. The Cashier of the in Western Union or any other stock. The Cashier of the Bank of California says D. O. Mills is in New-York on business of the bank, and states positively he has no connection with any such pool, nor has any other person connected with the bank. Henry Keene denies that his brother, James Keene, has any connection with the movement, or has had \$6,000,000 or a tenth of that amount transferred to New-York, and characterizes the story so far as he is concerned as sheer nonsense.

A CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION TO BE CONTESTED. SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 30.-Congressman Piper of this district has written a letter to Hornce Davis, Congressman elect, stating his intention of contesting the election, on the ground that Mr. Davis received over 9,000 frandment votes, the votes having been cast of certificates of circliment, and the names of the voters not having been entered on the great register. He also alleges that Mr. Davis received 4,000 votes which were cast by parties who were non-residents.

# KANSAS SENATORIAL FIGHT.

Topeka, Kan., Jan. 30 .- Senator Harvey has withdrawn from the Senatorial canvass. Three ballots were had to-day, the last and 15th being as follows: Plumb, 57 (83 being necessary to a choice); Osborn, 41 Simons, 20; Sears, 27; Martin, 8; Shannon, 1. It is believed there will be an election to-horrow, and that the contest will be between Plumb and Osborn. There is, however, some talk of bringing out a new man.

# FLORIDA LEGISLATURE.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Jan. 30.-A Tallahassee special to The News says: The Assembly passed a bill authorizing the payment of the Democratic Presidential electors. A resolution was introduced asking Congress for an appropriation of \$50,000 to haprove the mouth of the Apalacaicola River.

ANOTHER WHISKY-RING PARDON.

### St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 30.-Gen. John Mc-Donald of whisky-fraud fame received an unconditional pardon yesterday, and was immediately released from the Penitentiary at Jefferson City.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH MONTREAL, Jan. 30.—Two men, Beloir and Fleat-rault, who were at work on the Lachine Canal were killed last evening by a bank of earth which caved in.

evening by a bank of earth which caved in.

POITSVILLE, Penn., Jan. 30.—The jury in the case of Jeeph F. Dengler, ex-Cashier of the Pennsylvania Namonal Ban., of Poitsville, charged with embezdement of \$8,000, brought in a veridet of guilty this aftersoon.

BOSTON, Jan. 30.—Thomas Mack was shot in the bead with a shot gun by a man named Doyle, at Brooxine, today. Mack's condition is critical. Doyle was arrested. The two men had been drinking tog-ther, and quarreled.

boston, Jan. 30.—Frank L. Fierry, a New-York burglar, who came to roston and attempted to kill an aunt who was cognized of his connection with a murder in the lormer city, was to-day sentenced to seven year's imprisonment.

Boston, Jan. 30.—Albert H. Prince and Joseph L. Palmer were detected yeaterday in an attempt to commit a theft on a train of the Boston and Alkany kairoad. They jumped off the moving train, and Palmer was fatally injured. Prince had awarm broken.

COMPLETING THE COMMISSION.

FORMAL ELECTION OF THE CAUCUS NOMINEES BY CONGRESS-JUSTICE BRADLEY THE FIFTH JUDGE. The Senate elected their caucus nominees to the Electoral Convention yesterday without opposition. The House caucus nominees were also elected, but a few Democrats refused to vote for Gen. Garfield, whereupon a few of the Republicans refused to vote for the Democratic nominees. The Supreme Court Justices would have elected Judge Davis to complete their delegation, but he refused to serve. They accordingly chose Judge Bradley. The Commission Will meet in the Supreme Court room to-day.

### THE FORMALITY IN CONGRESS. THE SENATE GOES THROUGH IT CALMLY, THE HOUSE

NOT WITHOUT AN EXHIBITION OF PARTY FEEL-ING.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 .- The machinery of the new Electoral law works with as much smoothness as though it had been in force for a generation. Both houses of Congress chose their members of the commission to-day, and the four judges selected a fifth, so that the new power, foreign to the Constitution, as many believe, and wholly strange to our system of government, has come into full existence. The Supreme Court room has been prepared as the scene of its momentous labors. All the judges' chairs and the long desk in front of them have been covered with linen for the mixed tribunal. A space within the bar has been cleared and a broad table has been formed by joining together three smaller ones appropriately significant of the composite nature the body to assemble around it, and 15 chairs have been placed in position. Upon the table, in front of each member's seat, is a little pile of foolscap, garnished with a steel pen and two quills. Around this table will soon be settled, if not the fate of the nation, at least the fate of the bundred thousand Government office-holders, and the more than ten hundred thousand office-seekers ravenously waiting the signal of a Democratic triumph to rash upon the spoils. For the nextweek or two this affair of walnut and pine will be the central point in the political system of the United States.

The formality of voting for numbers of the commission was conducted in the Senate in a dignified and monotonous way, each Senator rising and an nouncing the names of the five caucus nominees The nominees did not of course vote for themselves and named only four. Mr. Edmunds spread the ripple of a smile over the placidly solean surface of the ceremony by saying, "I have voted for only four Senators; I do not vote for the other name proposed." This, in a tone that seemed to indicate that he had grave objections against the other nominee. Mr. Conkling insisted, before the roll-call began, that it was unnecessary for everybody to call out the whole list of names, and that the law would be complied with if the Secretary read the list and the Senators responded "Yea;" but this method of voting viva voce was objected to. When Mr. Conkling's name was called he responded, "I vote for the same gentlemen named by the Senator who last voted." There was no opposition to the caucus ticket, and it was unanimously elected

The election of the House members occupied about two hours. Mr. Lamar, chairman of the Democratic cancus, placed Messrs. Payne, Hunton, Abboti, Garfield, and Hoar in nonlination, and sug gested that, in order to save time, members, as their names were called, might simply respond that their votes were east for the ticket as nominated. Mr. Buckner of Wisconsin, supported by 15 or 20 Democrats who voted against the Compromise bill, and who wished to display their lack of fairness and good faith by attempting to defeat one of the Republicans, placed in nomination by the caucus, opposed this nomination, but after some desultory dis cussion Mr. Lamar's suggestion was agreed to, with the modification that each member when his name was called should vote for the five names, pronouncing them one after another. Very few incidents of interest occurred during the c roll. About 25 Democrats, not including any of great prominence or influence in the House, refused to vote for Gen. Garfield, and substituted the name of Mr. Foster, Mr. McCrary, or Mr. Willard. In retaliation, when Mr. Hayes's name was called, after announcing his vote in favor of Mr. Hoar and Mr. Garneld, he added the names of Messrs. Mills, Singleton, and Blackburn, three Democrats who opposed the passage of the bill. As this vote was recorded there was considerable laughter in the House. Some of the Republicans named the representatives of their own party on the commission before the Democrats; some of them alternated, announcing the name of a Republican and then of a Democrat. The Democrats, on the other hand, generally placed the Democratic candidates first in naming the commission; but one or two of them, including Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Cox of New-York, complimented their political opponents by placing the names of Mr. Hoar and Gen. Garfield before those of the Democrats. Gen. Terry of Virginia substituted the name of Mr. Townsend of New-York for that of Gen. Garfield, and Mr. Townsend not only acknowledged the compliment by throwing a kiss across the ball to Gen. Terry, but also by substituting Terry's name, when his tura came to vote, for that of Mr. Payne. The best of good feeling seemed to prevail on both sides of the commission, notwithstanding the wholly uncalled-for opposition of a portion of the Democrats to Gen. Garfield. House during the whole time occupied in electing the

### THE MEETING OF THE JUSTICES. UNCERTAINTY AS TO DAVIS'S POSITION - DAVIS THE FIRST CHOICE OF HIS COLLEAGUES, BRAD-

LEY THE SECOND.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRISCRE.] WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.-The four judges met this afternoon. They chose the fifth member of their branch of the commission and prepared an announcement of the appointment, which they scaled up and directed to the two houses of Congress. The communication will be opened to-morrow and read in the House and Scuate early in the day. The four judges are prudently silent about their meeting this afternoon, but it is learned on unquestionable authority that they first elected Judge Davis, who peremptorily declined to serve, and that they then chose Judge Bradley. The fact that Judges Swayne and Hunt reside in the same States with two of the Presidential candidates, it is understood, was considered by the four judges as sufficient reason for not selecting either one of them.

The commission is invited to meet in the Supreme Court room at 4 o'clock to-morrow for the purpose of organization. IGENERAL PRESS DISPATURAT

Washington, Jan. 30,-Associate Justices Clifford, Strong, Miller, and Field, designated by the Electoral bill as the four members of the judicial branch of the commission, were in secret conference for two or three hours to-day, but adjourned without arriving at a determination of the question as to which one of their associates should be selected by them to be the nfth member. It may be considered certain, however, that to-morrow morning, very soon after they reassemble, they will select Justice Bradley as the fifth member, and promptly communicate the fact to both houses of Congress. There is sufficient reason to believe that he would have been selected to-day had it been authoritatively ascertained prior to the adjournment of the conference that Justice

to him. It is conjectured that the embarrasement at the

Davis would positively decline the position if offered

# consultation to-day arose mainly if not entirely from the conflicting accounts as to the willingness

of Justic Davis to serve upon the commission, which were not set at rest until after the conference had formally ended for the day. It is currently believed, although of course the statement cannot be made upon authority, that one or more ballots were east to-day for Justice Davis under the belief entertained by a portion of those present that, although he had expressed a disinclination to serve upon the commission, he would nevertheless accept the position if chosen by his colleagues. As the law peremptorily requires the Senate and the House to elect their representation of the tripartite commission during to-day's session, it has been generally supposed that it was necessary to complete. the judicial branch, but this is an incorrect impres-

sion, for the law on this point reads as follows: sion, for the law on this point reads as follows:

On the Tuesday next preceding the first Thursday in February, Anno Domini 1877, or as soon thereafter as may be, the Associate Justices of the Sapreme Court of the Upited States, now assigned to the first, third, eighth, and ninth circuits, shall select in such manner as a majority of them shall deem itt another of the Associate Justices of said Court, which five persons shall be members of said commission, &c.

### RULES OF THE TRIBUNAL. A FLOOD OF ADVICE FROM OUTSIDE-LONG ARGU-MENTS PROBABLY NOT TO BE PERMITTED.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 .- The members elect of the commission received a great deal of contradictory advice to-day volunteered by their friends upon matters relating to their work. They were urged to hold open sessions and to sit with closed doors; to admit reporters and counsel only, to allow a hundred spectators admitted on tickets, and to lock out verybody except the lawyers; to hear speeches, to insist that all arguments should be filed as briefs in writing, and to dispense with counsel altogether; to consider nothing except the papers submitted by the joint convention, and to admit all evidence bearing on the questions at issue. A score at least of the points likely to come up were talked of from as many points of view as could be taken of them. Under the broad power to make its own rules the commission will settle them all for itself in good time; and as the members are prudently reticent as to their individual epinions respecting them, all speculation as to how they will be settled have little value. It is pretty evident, however, that the lawyers who are getting ready to deluge the body with their oratory will receive a check. If they are all allowed to talk as long as they want to the 4th of March will come before the count

APPROVAL BY THE CONNECTICUT ASSEMBLY. HARTFORD, Conn., Jan. 30 .- The lower branch of the Legislature to-day, on motion of a Demo-eratic member, adopted unanimously a resolution tenderng the thanks of the General Assembly to President Frant for his approval of the Electoral bill, and cordially indorsing his message.

## GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

A PAPAL PROTEST IN PREPARATION. LONDON, Tuesday, Jan. 30, 1877.

A telegram from Rome, in the second edition f The Times, says the Pope will protest against the Clerical Abuses act, recently passed by the Italian Chamber of Deputies, by nteaus of an encyclical letter, which is now being prepared. It will probably be published at a consistory which will be held during the first fortnight

### THE MEXICAN PRESIDENCY.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 30 .- Mr. Iglesias, the ex-Chief-Justice of Mexico, has given his views on current reports regarding him. He says: "I am not in anarchist, nor do I assume infallibility of judgment. I vested in me to proclaim the election of Lerdo void, but that it was vested in the people, and I called upon them to decide the question. I claimed then, and still claim, that his pretended election was unconstitutional and fraudulent, for in the first place it was not general, and in the second it was not an expression of popular sensitient. Several of the Sixtes, some six or eight, were occupied by Diaz, and there was consequently no vote cast in them, and in many others the inflintry, by Lerdo's cracer, took possession of the polls, to the entire exclusion of the constitutional officers, the consequence being that in those States a meager vote was east, and that of coorse was solid for Lerdo, Gen. Comofort in 1857, two months after he entered the Presidential chair, subverted the laws, and Jonez, the then Chief-Justice, dechard finnesh President, and was supported by a vact onjectly of the people. I have but tollowed his example. At present, whatever may be but tollowed his example. At present, whatever may be but tollowed his example. At present, whatever may be sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as sented a ball abolishing the Marine Contribute same as the contribute of the particular and present and the prosecular and the provided and the Sentel as fraida, the particular and provided and provided that an abolishing the ball provided and provided that an abolishing the ball provided and provided that an abolishing the ball provided the provided and provided that an abolishing the ball provided the provided that it was vested in the people, and I called upon them ensi, neither to New-Orients or ers where, but will leave his place for Mexico direct citier in one of our men-of-war or an in American steamer, and it is my intoution to hand upon and remain upon Mexican soil, even if it must be as a prisoner. As I have received several effers of military assistance from American officers. I retterate the fact that it is utterly topassible for me to accept their aid. Ours is an interaceline strangle in which for eights should take no part, and I should rather feet that every nope is lost than to accept victory by such means."

# CHINA AND JAPAN.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 30.-The steamship Belgic, which arrived here to-day from Hong Kong via Yokohama, brings the following Asiatic news: The advices from Hong Kong are to Jan. 2, and from Shanghai to Jan. 3. Reports of disaster to the army of Gen. Tso. ghting against the forces of Yakute Bog, had been re-

# THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN.

THE HOSTILES UNDER CRAZY HORSE ENCAMPED ON THE YELLOWSTONE-THE PORCE CONSISTING OF 1,200 LODGES-GEN, CROOK OPERATING THROUGH PRIENDLY SIOUX. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

RED CLOUD AGENCY, Jan. 29, via SIDNEY, Neb. Jan. 30.—On the 16th of January about 30 Indians were sent out from here to find the bostiles under Crazy Horse. Information is now received that the hostiles are, and have been for some time, encamped on the Yeilowstone, near the mouth of Powder River, about 40 miles below Gen. Miles's post, at the mouth of Tongue Elver. The Cheyennes, whom Gen. Mackenzie defeated in the Sioux pass of the Big Hera Mountain in Nevember, had joined Crazy Horse at his camp at the mouth of the Powder River in a very destitute condition, having the Powder River in a very destrate condition, having lost everything. A great many wounded in the fight with Mackenzie were brought in, and 14 had died on the way. The Indians report about 1,200 ledges in all were with Crazy Herse. At this season of the year it is nearly impossible to carry on the campaign against these Indians from this department. It would require a march of 400 miles to reach the hostile camps, and the transportation of 50,000 peunds of forage per day on pack nucles, besides clothing and rations for troops. This would be far too expensive a method of prosecuting the war. If the hostiles cannot be reached by the troops under Gen. Miles, now on Tongue River, it is hardly to be expected they can be overtasen from his direction. It is promible, therefore, that Gen. Crook will confine the remainder of the Winter's campaign to efforts to bring in the hostiles through friendly Indians. Afready over 200 Sloug have been enfasted at this agency, and at least 1,000 can be obtained. Gen. Crook has accomplished a very important work in this alone, and it is not improbable that he will find the servicedly allies a means of specifity terminating the war, which might be prolonged for years if only southers were employed. He personally superintends the work of organizing and equipping, and has temporarily established his headquarters in Omaha shee last May. lost everything. A great many wounded in the fight

### TELEGRAPHIC NOTES. PITTSBURGH, Jan. 30.—Daniel O'Neil, editor of

The PRINDS PROPOSED, A tests.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 30.—At the annual meeting of the Philadelphia Commercial Exchange to-day, Seneca E. Malone was elected prisonent for the ensuing year.

AUBURN, N. Y., Jan. 30.—A transfer of 50 convicts from Sing Sing arrived as ely at Anburn Prison this morning. Among the gang were the four Astoria maked burging, Eigens Christ of New-York, Quimbo Appe, the Chinese marderer, and a mumber of other continues commans.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jen. 30.—James Leslie, aged 28 years, was to-day convicted of highway rob.ery perpetraced in this city on Jan. 22, 1877, and as nice cod to the State Prison at Auburn for ten years and six montas.

# ALBANY.

WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THE STATE PRISONS SUPERINTENDENT-MR. WOOD IN'S RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY A PARTY VOTE-ATTACK ON THE NORMAL SCHOOLS-THE NEW-YORK COURT-HOUSE COMMISSION-RELIEF OF CITY TAX-PAYERS. FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

ALBANY, Jan. 30 .- The State Senate, after a

short debate to-day, secepted an amendment effered by

Senator Bradley to the bill in relation to the salary of the

coming Superintendent of State Prisons, and passed the biil. By the amendment, instead of \$8,000 salary toe superintendent will receive only \$6,000 salary, but his traveling expenses up to \$1,000 will be paid, and also the salary of a clerk to the amount of \$1,000. Mr. Woodin called up his resolution citing the opinions of eminent lawyers on the power of the President of the Senate to count the electoral votes, and urged its pas sage. The Democrats attempted to prevent a vote by offering amendments and making long speeches in favor of their passage. Senator Jacobs offered an amendment to the effect that the New-York Senate has confidence in the patriotism of the board of arbitration to be appointed under the provisions of the Electoral bill, and sincerely believes that the board will so get as to com mand the unanimous approval of the country. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 12 to 19-all the Republicans voting against its adoption and all the Democrats in its favor. Mr. Schooumaker offered an amendment strongly approving of by the same vote. Mr. Jacobs then offered an amendment in effect declaring that nothing in Mr. Woodin's resolutions reflected on the wisdom of Congress in passing the Compromise bill. This was also rejected; and also an amendment offered by Mr. Kennaday quoting a passage from President Grant's message concerning the power of the President of the Senate to count the electo ral votes. Unimportant amendments offered by Mr. Gerard and Mr. Starbuck were then rejected. To vary claring bluntly that the President of the Senate has the power to count the electoral votes. This was rejected by a nanimous vote. Mr. Starbuck then offered a resolution affirming that any attempt to inaugurate the candidate who received a minority of the popular vote would be revolutionary. In this he was supported by only six of the Democrats-Senators Bixby, Erndley, Lamont, Loomis, Schoonmaker, and Hammond. Tired out with speech-making and the writing of resolutions, the Democrats now allowed Mr. Woodin's resolutions to come to a vote. They were passed by the party vote-17 Yeas to 11 Nays. In order to put himself on record in relation to the measure, Mr. Woodin then moved that the resolutions of Mr. Harris, congratula ing Congress that it had adopted a plan of compromise, be rescinded. He also made an earnest speech in favor of the rescinding of the resolutions (passed last Friday). The Senate, however, refused to retrace its steps, the vote standing 11 in favor and 19 against such action. The following Republicans voted with the Democrats: Senators Baaden, Emerson, Harris, McCarthy, Sprague, Tobey, and Vedder. There were only three bills introduced, all of slight importance.

In the Assembly there were few bills of interest presented. The matter of greatest interest to the public perhaps is a resolution offered by Mr. Ruggles instructing he Committee on Ways and Means to strike out of the appropriation bills the appropriation of \$150,000 tor the support of the Normal Schools of the State. Mr Ruggles, in a long speech on that subject, argued that they were a uselers expense to the State, and that a large proportion of the persons who availed themselves of their privileges did not keep their pledge to become teachers. The resolution was passed by a very large

Public Works all their powers, was presented by Mr. Public Works all their powers, was presented by Mr. Flocke. All the contracts made by the present Commission may be carried out or renewed by the Commissioner. The shrankage of values within the past three years has made it difficult for many owners of real estate in New-York to pay the city taxes upon their property. Last year there were several difficult moduced for the relief of the distressed tax-payers. This year there have also been ascertal. Mr. Langbein presented one to-day, it provides that all necessiments upon real estate in New-York that have been made and confirmed for severs, guiters, the straine, the paying, defamit shall be under in the payment of the interest as provided, the real estate may be sold. Mr. strainan presented a oil abolishing the Marine Court—the same as that presented in the Senize has the friends by Mr. Baxby, and given in The Thineshe of that day. Mr. Hammond introduced a bill so changing the general Excise law that if prissed heterafter beches for sening "strong and spiritous liquors" would cost only \$30, and fremess to self beer, also, and whee, \$20. Mr. Ecclosine presented a bill which provides that in actions against speriffs, coroners, and constables, who have an other provide at the public expense, the summons has be made by leaving the sammons at such an effice, or at the read neces of the effects hanned. Another bill, which authorizes the laying out of a public park on the piot of ground bounded by Avenue 5th Medicias, Ninhi-ave, West One-handerd-and-fitted-first, was also presented by Mr. Corsa. It has a large number of signatures: "The interesting pention given below was presented by Mr. Corsa. It has a large number of signatures: "The and reagned, real-deats of New-York, in view of the distract which exists in the public mind in consequence of the centimized instinuagement and failure of the hisarance companies, respectfully petition that some legislation be adopted at an early date that will cause the affiairs of the haarance companies to be managed in a more honorable, legithment, and ecanonicar manner, and in the laterest of Lae policy-holders, and your petitioners will ever pray."

# THE STATE CANALS.

MEETING OF THE CANAL BOARD-THE DENISON CANAL SUIT.

ALBANY, Jan. 30.-The Canal Board met to-

day, when the special committee on the case of W. H. Brown and C. W. Avery, Superintendents of the Chausplan Canal, reported that they had no power in the mat-ter referred to them. In the case of Dubres it was or-dered that the investigation into the charges against him proceed at 11 o'clock on Wednesday. The balances due on the contracts of H. B. Danison and J. McInree, R., were briefed to be paid. The A. orney-General's report, favoring the paving of A. B. V.a. Donsen's claim for \$7,207, was agreed to, and the claim was ordered to be paid. The First National Fank of Systems was made the densitory for the Sait Springs deposite, in these of the Syrocuse National Bank. The Committee on Commerce reported that the expectations for the theal year ending \$8,15.00, 1875, were \$1,202,053 62 and the receipts \$1,540,194 99. The contribute favor the asking of legislative authority to reduce the toils, leaving the question of whether they shall use this authority to be decided him proceed at 11 o'clock on Wednesday. The balances

# of whesher they shall use this authority to be decided Lerenter. Adjourned until to-morrow. In the Dear of canal suit to-day Mr. Dodge and other attaches of the Engineers' Department were examined as to the surveys and measurements made in order to get at the quantity of work done. Nothing new was cheited.

# ALBANY NOTES.

ALBANY, Tuesday, Jan. 30, 1877.

The Coundities on Cities gave a hearing to Police Commissioner Erasult and Dorman B. Eaton in relation to Mr. Strahan's police bill. Mr. Eaton opposed the adoption of that portion of the bill which gives the Police tion of that portion of the bill which gives the Police Commissioners power to discharge without trial, and also the section raising the salaries of inspectors and captains. He said that the people would not be willing to grant such arbitrary powers, nor would tasy consent to salaries being raised. Mr. Echands said that the police authorities of London possessed the power to smannarily discharge a patroinam, and that this power was only meant to be applied to members of the detective force. Mr. Earon was also heard by the commistice in relation to Mr. Cowdin's bill authorizing the holding of neonference to consider the ways of reducing the city's expenses. He made a strong argument in favor of its adoption. He said it was a practical way of reducing the city's expenses, and suggested that the name commission be instructed to report to the next Legislature.

The Republican and the Democratic members of the

The Republican and the Democratic members of the State Legislature both held caucuses to-night to decide for whom their Aspective party vote shall be cast at the election of Repents of the University to-morrow. The following candidates were closen by a manimous vote in-both cancesses: Chauncey M. Depew and Charles E. Fitch by the 19, jubicana; Parke Godwin and William Purcell by the Da. 2 crats.

Assemblyman Sck-e will introduce a resolution to detailed statement of the wages paid to laborers on the canals during the past year, and the number on ployed. It is charsed that an unusual number of laborers were unnecessarily employed on the canals just before election day.

The Committee on the Judiciary at its meeting unent mously approved of Mrs. Lowell's bill cetablishing work houses throughout the State for the imprison